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THURSDAY

Effort to ease rush hour

Federal workers start staggered schedules

Five government agencies have started staggered work schedules involving 56,000 federal employees in an effort to ease rush-hour traffic.

In a study of a 40-block southwest area, the General Services Administration, in connection with the District Highway Department and the National Capitol Planning Commission, has come up with a plan which will start some employees, formerly due in at 8:15 a.m. are late as 9 a.m. There is some negative reaction, mostly from those coming in to work at the late hour, a GSA spokesman said yesterday.

The new plan calls for all GSA employees to report at 8:15 a.m. instead of 8:30 a.m. At the Department of Agriculture, where all employees reported to work at 9 a.m., 4,064 will report at 8:15 and 4,038 at 8:30 a.m. NASA employees, formerly due in at 8:15 a.m. are now scheduled to report at 8. Health, Education and Welfare, which used to have 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. shifts, will now have 3,097 employees reporting at 8, 1,402 reporting at 8:30

and the rest reporting at 9 a.m. The Department of Transportation now has three shifts also, ranging from 7:30 to 9 a.m.

Many people did not report to work yesterday because of the Easter holiday, and police officials said they could make no real estimate of the effect of the new plan.

There are no changes in work schedules for HUD, FBI, the Treasury Department, Department of Defense, USIA or the Smithsonian.

